In 2nd case of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company, most of the workers resumed work after the company announced increase in salary.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Mission officials are in constant touch with the local Government with regard to the issues of salary of workers, penalizing the employer for violating workers rights and regular inspections of the labour camps to check the living conditions of the workers etc.

Kidnapping of Indian workers in Nigeria

1097. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently three Indian petrochemical workers were kidnapped from Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt by suspected militants;

(b) if so, the reasons of their kidnap and whether they have been traced, so far;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to rescue those Indians from the clutches of militants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir 12 Indian nationals were kidnapped by militants in 2 separate incidents on May 19 and June 1, 2007 in Port Harcourt.

(b) The reason of the kidnapping is the prevalent militancy in the Niger Delta region where militants kidnap expats and Nigerians alike.

(c) and (d) The Mission in collaboration with the local Government and security agencies made extensive efforts to secure the safe release of the Indians kidnapped. They were eventually released on June 11 and June 15, 2007.

Indians in Jails of Gulf countries

1098. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in Jails in Gulf countries who are victims of recruitment agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the release of these people; and

(d) the details of steps taken against the fraudulent agencies and to ensure the safety of the emigrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegation to European countries

1099. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delegations under the leadership of the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited European countries;

(b) if so, the details of the last such visit of the Minister to European nations;

(c) the names and details of the members included in the delegation;

(d) whether media persons were taken alongwith the delegation; and

(e) if so, the details of the names of the journalists who accompanied the delegation alongwith the names of the organizations the journalists represent?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Official visits to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy were undertaken from 01-09 February, 2007 to meet the overseas Indian community. A brief visit on 9th June, 2007 to UK was undertaken on way back after visiting some Caribbean countries.

(c) Shri T.Q. Mohammad, Deputy Secretary (FS) of the Ministry and Shri L. Ramachandran, APS accompanied me during the visit to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy and Shri V.N. Ajayappan, PA, accompanied me on the UK visit.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indian workers in Middle East

1100. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the crisis faced by lakhs of Indian workers in the Midele East who are facing deportation;

(b) whether it is a fact that lakhs of Indian workers have been declared "illegal migrants";

(c) whether protector of emigrants has enquired into the sudden declaration of lakhs of workers as 'illegal migrants';

(d) whether the issue has been taken up with the concerned Government in those countries; and

(e) the status of the matter and solutions proposed?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Some Middle-East countries from time to time deport foreign workers including Indians due to various reasons. During the year 2007, the number of such workers deported/ECs (Emergency Certificates) issued are as under:

Year	Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
2007 (till Oct. 07)	8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

Such deportation normally are done for workers declared illegal migrants on the grounds of non-possession of valid visas/resident permits, violation of local laws etc.

(d) and (e) The Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers of organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. Further, the complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach